INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/10982

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	2-4, 9-11, 13, 22, 23,25	YES
	Claims	1, 5-8, 12, 14-21, 24, 26, 27	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	2-4, 9-11, 13, 22,23,25	YES
	Claims	1, 5-8, 12, 14-21, 24, 26, 27	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	1-27	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1, 5-8, 12, 14-21, 24 and 26 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by WOZENCROFT (US 5,718,688).

Wozencroft discloses a catheter placement device comprising an introducing needle (2) which extends through a bore in a catheter (4) and a locking device (9) comprising a first locking part (16) having an end wall (15) provided with a slot (16) through which a needle (2) extends, a second locking part (11) having two side walls (19, 20) connected by an opposite end wall (17) provided with a slot (18) through which the needle (2) also extends, and a locking cam (21) connected to side wall (19) by a flexible hinge portion (22) so as to permit limited pivotal movement. When the locking device (9) is in the unlocked position wherein the needle (2) extends through slots (16 and 18), the needle (2) holds a tongue (25) on the first locking part (10) in a depressed position in which it compresses a leaf spring (26) located between the tongue (25) and the adjacent side wall (20). In the unlocked position the locking cam (21) is clear of the needle (2).

Claims 1, 5-8, 12 and 14-17 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by LICHTE (US 4,969,879).

Lichte discloses a body fluid interconnect comprising a quick disconnect assembly (240) integrally associated with outer tubular member (250). An opening (252) of the outer tubular member has two shoulders, expansions or flanges (260, 262) which extend upwardly to support resilient levers (266, 268). The resilient levers (266, 268) are connected to the shoulders (260, 262) by means of thin or reduced webs (270, 272) that allow them to pivot in a flexible manner. Levers (266, 268) comprise hand or finger portions (276, 278) which allow for depression or squeezing thereof thereby opening and articulating jaws (280, 282). Jaws (280, 282) terminate in barbs, tangs, hooks or angular portions (290, 292) which catch and secure an exterior portion of an inserted conduit.

(Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)

Wozencroft
5,718,688

5853393

Lichte
4969879

Davis et al
5336191

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box V) (July 1998)*